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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 20 | Humidity 82% Partly Cloudy Sensex 81,715 | Nifty 25,050 | Gold 1,12,743 | Silver 1,34,109 | Dollar 88.77 | Euro 104.15 | GBP 119.35

SCIENCE STARS

Of 193 scientists from Bengaluru who made it to global list of most cited researchers this year, 134 from Indian Institute of Science

PAGE 2

POWER CUTS

City loses nearly 2,000 units of power every hour and registers 1 theft case every 6 hours while just bit of actual fine is collected

PAGES 6&7

Parappana Agrahara Central Prison is running with just half of its required staff strength — with 1 staff member assigned to oversee 300-350 prisoners, the situation appears volatile

PENITENTIARY HAS A PERSONNEL PROBLEM

New jails being built to tackle overcrowding, but what about personnel?

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The Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, which houses nearly 4,800 inmates, is battling an alarming staff crunch. Despite having 800 sanctioned posts, only about 400 staff are actively deployed, leaving the prison to function on just 50 percent of its required strength.

This shortage has created a highly disproportionate ratio between staff and inmates. The central prison has around 20 barracks, of which only 15 are currently used to house inmates, while the remaining are reserved for industry units, a dhyana (meditation) centre, library, hospital, and isolation wards. At present, the facility accommodates over 5,000 inmates with each barrack accommodating between 300 and 350 prisoners and only one staff member is assigned to oversee them. The situation not only puts immense stress on prison staff but also raises grave questions about inmate safety and effective monitoring. Proposal to shift the women's cell was also made, but it still remains within the same premises.

Officials point out that while inspections are routinely carried out, keeping an eye on every prisoner and preventing violent clashes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4»

Bangalore Mirror
Jail brawl raises security question
Inmates had access to sharp objects that police say they could have fashioned from material available to them
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BM had reported on Sept 22 about a fight in jail where prisoners used sharp objects to attack each other

"We cannot move prisoners to new units if no staff is allotted. With the current workforce already halved, it is impossible to stretch them further

—Jail source

Something's up with the air

Study finds high presence of carcinogenic compound polychlorinated biphenyls in industrial, heavy traffic areas

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Bengalureans living in Peenya, Hebbal, and Majestic areas are facing a higher carcinogenic risk due to the presence of toxic and persistent chemicals in the air, a study has highlighted.

Conducted by a group of researchers from various institutes and government agencies, the study analyses the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a probable human carcinogen compound, in five different sampling locations - industrial, residential, traffic, commercial, and rural - in the city.

Researchers collected 180 samples of the chemical compound for the analysis from Peenya Industrial Area, Majestic (commercial zone), Rajaji Nagar (residential zone, Hebbal (traffic-prone area), and Devanahalli (rural zone). The maximum average concentration of the compound was observed in industrial areas (3.11ng/m3) and the minimum in rural areas (0.44 ng/m3).

While the overall carcinogenic risk from the compound was found to be below the acceptable limit, the study highlighted that those living in industrial, traffic, and commercial areas face slightly elevated risk, highlighting the need for continuous monitoring and biomarker studies for public health protection.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Bollywood beats

Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru is organising 'Dandiya Nights', a spellbinding experience where the infectious beats of Bollywood meet the timeless rhythm of dandiya, creating an evening filled with music, dance, and merriment. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru, Thanisandra Main Road; When: September 30 and October 1, 6 pm**

02 Heritage hub

As part of its continued effort to showcase Karnataka's rich heritage and bring cultural experiences closer to travellers and the community, Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru is hosting a week-long Nadahabba Dasara celebration, showcasing the state's folk, classical, and traditional art forms. **Where: Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru – T1 Kerbside, T1 Arrivals Kerbside & T2 Arrivals Forecourt; When: September 22 to 29**

03 Sound saga

Raghu Dixit will be taking the stage for a spectacular Silver Jubilee celebration of timeless tunes and unforgettable performances. From folk soul to rock fusion, the performance is set to take the audience on a melodious journey. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: October 11, 7 pm**

04 Craft carnival

Rajasthan Handicrafts Furniture is holding 'Silk - Cotton Jewellery Expo' bringing together rural artisans from the eastern part of India, featuring vast collections of cotton and silk handlooms and handicrafts, dress materials, sarees, and more. **Where: Siddhartha Convention Center/ Kalyana Mantapa, HSR Layout; When: September 13 to 29**

05 Theatrical delight

Black Box India is presenting 'No Strings Attached', an engaging exploration of the human experience presented in a contemporary vaudeville format, delving into the intricacies of the present, past and potential future. **Where: Alliance Francaise, Vasanth Nagar; When: October 10, 7.30 pm**

Festive frame
A festive household glows with tradition during Bombe Habba, as dolls line decorated steps, celebrating Navratri with rituals and shared stories that unite generations in joyful reverence

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

HC to decide on bike taxi services today

The future of bike taxi services in the state will be decided on Thursday, following a detailed study by a 11-member government committee led by Transport Secretary NV Prasad. The committee visited Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata to examine how bike taxi services operate and the regulatory frameworks in these cities. Their report, consolidating the benefits and challenges of such services, will be submitted to the High Court on September 25. Based on the committee's findings, the government is expected to grant conditional approval. **— BMB**

B'luru scientists shine on global stage

Over 190 scientists from city make global list of most cited researchers this year; city-based academicians laud achievement, but point out scope for betterment in research

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Carrying out quality research requires investment in infrastructure, including cutting-edge laboratories, while quality of PhD work remains a concern and research culture in higher education continues to be underdeveloped, says former BU Vice Chancellor

Researchers from Bengaluru have made their mark in the Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% Scientists List for 2025, released recently. As many as 193 scientists from Bengaluru have made it to the global list of most cited researchers this year.

Out of these, the majority (134 researchers) are from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), followed by 13 researchers from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), 6 from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), 5 researchers from Christ University, 4 from St John's National Academy of Health Sciences and 3 each from National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Presidency University, and Raman Research Institute (RRI).

Researchers from as many as 24 institutes in the city have made it to the list. The prestigious list is based on a composite indicator (c-score), calculated from citation metrics such as total citations, H-index, H-index adjusted for the number of authors, citations to single-author papers, citations to single or first-author papers, and citations to single, first, or last-author papers. The c-score combines these metrics to provide a comprehensive measure of a scientist's impact, accounting for both the quantity and the quality of their contributions.

The metrics cover the entire career of a scientist up to the end of the previous year and focus on citations received during the previous year. Researchers are classified into 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-fields, allowing for a comprehensive representation of various disciplines. This classification is based on the Stanford University and Elsevier data used for the ranking. City-based academicians have lauded this achievement. However, they opine that there is a scope for improvement in research in higher education, not just in Bengaluru, but across the country.

Improvement in funding, sufficient infrastructure availability, along with cutting-edge laboratories, quality faculty, updated curricula, and strong research culture are the needs of the hour.

Venugopal KR, former Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University, said that 193 is a commendable figure, reflecting a significant number of researchers featured in the top 2 per cent list of most-cited scholars. However, this list does not capture the scope of inventions, and therefore does not fully represent the contribution to the global research landscape. "To carry out good research, we need investment to develop infrastructure, including cutting-edge laboratories. The qualities of PhD work need improvement. Places of higher education are still not cultivating a research culture," he said, adding that young researchers should be encouraged to publish papers. He emphasised the need to look beyond, into the realms of research products and innovation.

NIMHANS organises free cancer screening

As part of the nationwide initiative 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan', the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), in collaboration with Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, organised a free screening camp for cervical and breast cancer.

The mobile screening bus from Kidwai Memorial Hospital screened 74 NIMHANS women employees.

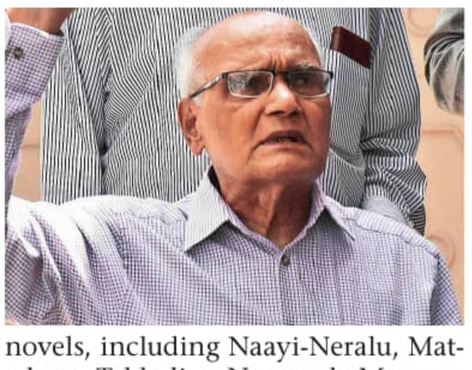
"The institute providing the opportunity for screening is good for everyone, because women employees usually do not go for check-ups due to time constraints. Since it was organised during working hours, it became easy to get tested," said one participant. Another added, "It is very important to conduct such programmes for women. This is a good step by the government under the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan. If such screenings are held regularly, it will help in early detection and treatment. The test was very satisfactory."

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from the NIMHANS community, highlighting the importance of preventive healthcare and timely screening for women's well-being. **— BMB**

Kannada literary icon SL Bhyrappa passes away at 94

Karnataka lost one of its towering literary figures on Wednesday with the passing of celebrated Kannada novelist and philosopher SL Bhyrappa. The 94-year-old writer, whose works have shaped generations of readers and sparked countless debates, breathed his last at a private hospital following a cardiac arrest at 2.38 pm, according to an official statement released by Rashtrotthana Hospital.

Regarded as one of the most influential voices in modern Indian literature, Bhyrappa leaves behind a legacy of novels that blend philosophy, history, and human emotion with remarkable depth. His works such as Vamshavriksha, Daatu, Parva, and Mandara have not only won critical acclaim but also reached wider audiences through translations into English and several Indian languages. Many of his



novels, including Naayi-Neralu, Mataadana, Tabbaliyu Neenaade Magane, and Vamshavriksha, were adapted into films, while Gruhabhanga and Daatu were transformed into acclaimed television series.

Over his prolific career, Bhyrappa was honoured with some of the country's highest civilian and literary awards. He was a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Saraswati Samman, and the Sahitya Akademi Award, reflecting both the breadth and impact of his contribution to literature. Known for his ability to weave philosophical inquiry into compelling storytelling, his novels often challenged readers to reflect on questions of culture, identity, and morality.

Tributes have poured in from across the literary and cultural spectrum, with admirers remembering him as a writer who not only chronicled the complexities of human life but also gave Kannada literature a distinctive voice on the national stage. His passing marks the end of an era, but his words and ideas continue to resonate with readers, scholars, and artists who draw inspiration from his body of work. SL Bhyrappa's journey from humble beginnings to becoming one of India's most respected literary icons stands as a testament to his dedication to the written word. **— BMB**

Let's jam: Music takes flight from Cubbon Park

What began as three friends jamming under trees has blossomed into Cubbon Jams, a vibrant community now performing across Bengaluru

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Musicians and strangers turned friends gather under Cubbon's canopy, where songs, laughter, and instruments transform weekends into soulful community celebrations

The city's Cubbon Park has long been a green haven for walkers, joggers, and nature lovers. But in the past year, it has also become a place of a musical movement, Cubbon Jams. What began as a casual Sunday pastime for three friends has since grown into a vibrant community of artists and music lovers, now making its way onto bigger platforms across the city.

What started in November last year with three young professionals—Shripal Bhati from Rajasthan, and West Bengal natives Zubin Hussain and Shivam Tiwari—quickly turned into a cultural phenomenon. Bhati, 28, a training manager in Bengaluru, first met Hussain, 33, a designer and architect, through a music app. They began jamming together, with Bhati on the flute and Hussain on the clap box. Soon after, Tiwari, 30, a software engineer and guitarist, joined them. The trio decided to carry their instruments into Cubbon Park one Sunday and play under the trees.

That first jam session drew curious passersby who stopped, listened, and eventually joined in. Week after week, more people began to gather. What began as three friends casually making music evolved into an open circle of performers and listeners. Within weeks, the small group swelled to over 20 participants every Sunday.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Bhati recalled the excitement of those early days.

"It was not on a stage under bright lights but in the simple greenery, where people came together with songs, stories, and open hearts. What started small quickly grew into something much larger than we had imagined."

The informal nature of the gatherings, however, soon faced limitations. Authorities at Cubbon Park informed the group they could not continue with more than 20 members. Though disappointed, the restriction gave Cubbon Jams the push to expand beyond the park. "Our confidence really came when strangers started singing with us. That's when we knew we couldn't stop," Bhati said. "Cubbon Jams evolved into a city-wide movement of music, warmth, and connection."

From the park lawns, the group soon moved into Bengaluru's café culture. They organised open mics at Starbucks on Vittal Mallya Road, followed by performances at Hard Rock Café, college festivals, and other popular venues. The platform grew into a recognised stage for both seasoned and emerging artists.

Hussain expressed pride in the transformation: "Seeing Cubbon Jams evolve from a simple jam session into a platform that gives artists a voice and a home fill me with gratitude. This isn't just our story—it belongs to everyone who has ever sung, played, or simply listened with us..."

The sessions typically run for about three hours. They open with community favourites such as Dil Chahta Hai and Zara Sa by KK, before moving on to sign-up performers and winding down with free-flowing jam circles where anyone can join in.

Cubbon Jams grew from Sunday park sessions into a citywide music movement, uniting artists, strangers, and dreamers through rhythm and connection

For Tiwari, the journey has been deeply personal. "It fills my heart with joy to see how far we've come. Back then, it was a small circle under the trees. Today, it's a thriving community connecting with more hearts than ever. For me, every beat on the percussion was more than rhythm—it was the heartbeat of this journey, carrying our little park jams into the vibrant family we now call Cubbon Jams."

Armed robbery: 4 arrested

Peenya Police have cracked a robbery case by arresting four men involved in an armed heist that occurred on August 14, 2025. The complainant, a Vijayanagar resident, had reported on August 18 that three strangers offered him a lift from Jalahalli Bus Stand and later drove him near Dabaspet in Nelamangala. There, he was threatened with a pistol and robbed of ₹5,000 in cash and two mobile phones worth ₹75,000. A case was registered, and police launched an investigation.

On August 25, three accused were arrested in Doddanakkundi, Marathahalli, along with the car, pistol, and stolen mobiles. Further inquiries led to the arrest of their associate on September 10 in Bijapur, who had supplied the weapon. Police have recovered the car, pistol, five mobile phones, and cash, altogether valued at ₹4 lakh. All accused are now in judicial custody. —BMB

Serial burglars sent behind bars

CRIME FILES

Bengaluru Police have cracked a series of house burglary cases, arrested three men and recovered gold ornaments valued at over ₹14 lakh.

The first breakthrough came on September 10, when police nabbed a 32-year-old man from Ayyappanagar, KR Puram, linked to a burglary in Kodigehalli village. The complainant had reported on August 30 that their home was broken into after bringing home a Lord Ganesha idol, with a 50-gram mangalsutra, bangles, and earrings stolen. Police recovered 58 grams of gold worth ₹5.8 lakh.

In another case reported from Patalamma Layout, Kadugodi, on August 26, gold ornaments weighing 27 grams were stolen. On September 16, two men were arrested in Sorahunase village. Acting on their confession, police recovered 82.5 grams of gold worth ₹8.25 lakh the next day.

With these arrests, police claim to have solved nine burglary cases across Kadugodi, HAL, and Sarjapur police station limits. —BMB

Gas cylinder thief nabbed

Varthur Police have arrested a man involved in multiple thefts of two-wheelers and LPG cylinders, recovering 11 stolen vehicles and 20 gas cylinders valued at around ₹8.5 lakh.

The case began after a complaint was filed on September 7 by a resident of Gunjur Village, whose two-wheeler had been stolen on September 5. Following a tip-off, police apprehended the accused near Halasalli Junction on September 20, seizing a stolen two-wheeler and two gas cylinders.

During interrogation, the man confessed to several thefts across Bengaluru. He revealed that he had hidden stolen vehicles in a vacant lot in Gunjur and sold cylinders to acquaintances. Between September 20 and 22, police recovered 10 more two-wheelers and 18 gas cylinders.

With this arrest, five theft cases across Varthur, KGHalli, Mahadevapura, and Viveknagar police limits have been detected. The accused was remanded to judicial custody on September 22. —BMB

HIGH COURT

Prajwal's plea seeking transfer of case junked

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday dismissed two petitions filed by former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna seeking transfer of two rape trials pending against him. Revanna argued that the 81st Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, who had earlier convicted him in another rape case, was biased. Justice MI Arun rejected this claim, observing that stern language in judgments cannot be equated with prejudice. The Court said the trial court's criticism of Revanna's delay tactics was justified, and accepting his argument would set a dangerous precedent by letting accused routinely demand new judges. It further noted that challenges to evidence assessment must be raised in appeal, not through transfer pleas. Revanna, already serving a life sentence for repeated rape of a domestic worker, faces four cases registered last year after circulation of 2,900 alleged assault videos. —BMB

'Social media must be regulated': X Corp case

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition filed by X Corp challenging the Centre's authority to issue blocking orders under Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, 2000. X Corp had argued that only Section 69A orders, read with IT Rules, empower the government to direct intermediaries to remove content.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, while pronouncing the order, emphasised the need for regulation in digital spaces. He observed that social media platforms serve as "amphitheatres of ideas" but cannot be allowed "anarchic freedom." Regulation of online speech, he said, is not unique to India and exists globally. "Unregulated speech under the guise of liberty becomes a license to lawlessness. Regulated speech, by contrast, preserves both liberty and order—the twin pillars upon which democracy must stand," the Court noted. —BMB

Pleas against caste census being heard

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday heard detailed arguments over a batch of petitions challenging the validity of the ongoing Social and Educational Survey, popularly known as "caste census".

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Joshi did not pass any interim relief but posted the matter for further hearing to Thursday.

Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing the state, argued that the petitions were not targeting any constitutional provisions or specific sections of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1995, but were in effect seeking to halt the government's exercise of power.

He maintained that the objections raised by the petitioners were general allegations of the survey being "unscientific," which could only be tested once results were made public. PTI

Plastic by other name: Activists denounce compostable tag

Experts caution misleading 'green' labels threaten sustainability

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Environmentalists and social activists have been demanding that the government ban compostable plastic bags, as most of these bags do not break down properly in natural conditions. The state government banned single-use plastic bags including compostable ones, in 2016. However, in a corrigendum dated August 1, 2025, the government ordered the omission of compostable plastic material from the ban.

Environmentalists and social activists argue that compostable plastic bags are often marketed as eco-friendly, but the reality is more complex. Most of these bags do not break down properly in natural conditions, as they require industrial composting facilities with high heat and controlled environments — which are not widely available or accessible. As a result, many end up in landfills or the natural environment, where they behave like regular plastics, contributing to long-term pollution.

A group of environmentalists and social activists gathered at a hotel on Wednesday for an initiative called 'Say No to Compostable Plastic Bags'. They said that the term 'compostable' often misleads consumers into thinking these bags are harmless, leading to increased consumption and improper disposal. This false sense of sustainability, they argued, undermines efforts to reduce single-use products and encourages a throwaway culture.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Misleading 'eco' bags criticised

"Our goal is to shift focus to truly sustainable alternatives such as paper, cloth, and jute bags that support long-term environmental health and responsible consumption. We call upon the public, retailers, and manufacturers to join this movement. Educational programmes, incentives for eco-friendly alternatives, and community partnerships will be launched in the coming weeks to aid this transition," they said.

Meanwhile, social activist Padmashree Balaram said that allowing compostable carry bags would not solve the current single-use plastic (SUP) menace. "There are no genuine compostable materials that can be made into carry bags. Hence, all polythene and polystyrene SUPs will simply be marked as compostable and continue their mission to destroy the Earth," Balaram said.

Environmentalists have raised concerns over compostable plastic bags being marketed as green. Without access to high-temperature industrial composting, these items often persist in the environment, mirroring conventional plastics.

Beautiful Bharat Founder Odette Katrak said Karnataka was one of the first forward-thinking states to ban plastic in 2016, well before the rest of the country. "We volunteers on the ground were proud that all kinds of compostable bags — by whatever name, biodegradable, oxo-biodegradable, compostable etc — were all explicitly banned. If this has been rolled back, it is a move in the wrong direction from a sustainability perspective. These bags do not compost in home composters and end up mixed with plastic bags, as laypersons or sorters cannot tell the difference. They add to landfill waste plus and also disrupt plastic recycling. We are seeing them everywhere — from online deliveries to free supermarket bags at vegetable counters. Worse, because they are free, customers help themselves to many, and this is fast becoming a new waste-related problem," said Katrak.

She said that paper bags should not be seen as an alternative either. "Just like compostable bags, they are being treated as single use items. Paper comes from trees, and compostable bags are mostly made from corn - both are precious resources that generate waste for only a few minutes of use. Reusable solutions work perfectly well in such cases. Milk packets may be an exception, as reusable packaging is not yet an easy option. But for anything else — whether grains, vegetables, or fruits — buying open produce in reusable cloth or net bags has been effective, with paper bags serving only as a less desirable interim option," she said. Shwetha Urs of Women of Wisdom said the focus should be on using cloth, paper, and jute bags instead of compostable plastic bags.

400 staffers in facility that houses 5,000 inmates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is nearly impossible under the current circumstances. The issue gained urgency recently after an inmate clash inside the central prison where sharp objects were used, exposing the risks of inadequate supervision.

Adding to the challenge, overcrowding has reached critical levels. A national prison report in 2025 warned that India's jails are operating at 131% over capacity, with the country's prison population, designed for 5.15 lakh, already strain- ing at over 6.8 lakh projected by 2030. Karnataka mirrors this crisis with Parappana Agrahara Central Jail alone housing far beyond its manageable capacity.

New prisons, but no staff

In an effort to ease the load, the state government is building four new prisons, in Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Bidar, and Vijayapura, each designed to accommodate up to 1,000 inmates. Construction in Bidar and Vijayapura is nearly complete, Mangaluru is halfway through, and a rural central prison at Devanahalli is also on the cards.

However, officials admit that without sanctioned staff, shifting inmates to these new facilities will remain on paper. "We cannot move prisoners to new units if no staff is allotted. With the current workforce already halved, it is impossible to stretch them further," sources told Bangalore Mirror.

And though overcrowding appears to have eased with Supreme Court directions to grant bail on merit and the new BNS provision barring arrest for offences carrying punishment below seven years, both overcrowding and acute staff shortage continue to plague the prison.

Recruitment, administrative changes

As per the government's new administrative plan, the existing staff of the central prison will eventually be redistributed across three separate units, one for convicts, one for undertrials, and a high-security prison. Each will be headed by senior-ranking officers, including a Superintendent of Police (SP) and Additional SP, while a Chief Superintendent will oversee the overall administration.

Dedicated facilities such as kitchens, hospitals, and visitor areas will also be independently organised for each unit. The new high-security block alone is expected to house 300–400 inmates. Officials say that additional posts are expected to be created soon, but recruitment is yet to match the pace of infrastructure growth.

Experts caution that building new prisons without proportional staffing could worsen the situation rather than solve it. With staff already overwhelmed, sometimes a single officer managing hundreds of inmates, the risk of unrest, escapes, and unchecked contraband smuggling looms large. Prison officers stress that only a well-staffed, well-trained workforce can ensure the safety of inmates and personnel.

Document Lost

I, Radha Kumari Atelaiah Bhuvanagiri D/o Atelaiah Balaiah Bhuvanagiri, residing at Plot No.305, 3rd Floor, SLV Vaibhav, Vinayaknagar, Bangalore-560063, stating that, i have lost the sale deed of my property while shifting the house. The sale deed (No.14697/2005-2006, No.1578/2007-2008, No.371/2020-2021) of the Site no.62 in survey no. 70/1, 70/2, & 70/3 of Doddajala village, Jala hobli, Bangalore North taluk has been lost on 24.09.2025 at Pune. I have filed a complaint (L.R. No.1819558/2025) to the Bangalore city police in this regard. If anyone finds the said document, please contact the above address or mobile number 9379995599.

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9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Vendor nuisance

Indiranagar

Balloon sellers outside BSNL on 80ft Road, Indiranagar, are littering the pavement, making it difficult for pedestrians.

Cattle chaos

Nandidurga Road

A herd of cows obstructing traffic outside the mosque on Nandidurga Road is adding to the chaos.

Work deadlock

Residency Road

On Residency Road (Ward 111), TenderSure pavement works have remained incomplete since 2014–17, raising suspicions of corruption.

Demand for accountability grows as B'luru cops face corruption allegations

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Recent suspensions of 16 police officers in just two weeks have reignited public calls for stronger accountability and systemic reforms within the Bengaluru police force. Citizens and activists argue that disciplinary actions, while necessary, only address symptoms of a deeper problem of oversight and ethical lapses among law enforcement personnel. The officers, suspended for corruption, extortion, and dereliction of duty, include three police inspectors and several constables from Halasuru Gate Police Station, where even Inspector Hanumanth Bhajantri had previously faced suspension.

The controversy first came to light when a local businessman accused officers of threatening him with a fabricated case and extorting Rs 10 lakh. Investigations confirmed the allegations, leading to the suspension of ASI Prasanna, Head Constable Srinivas, Constable Nagaraj, and PI Hanumanth Bhajantri. Residents expressed concern over the misuse of police authority. "It is alarming that those responsible for public safety are exploiting their positions for personal gain," said Ramesh Kumar, a Halasuru resident. Activist Priya Nair added, "Suspensions are important, but the senior brass must ensure systemic checks and preventive oversight. Without it, such misconduct will recur."

These disciplinary actions were guided by reports from senior officials, including DCP Akshay Machindra, and executed under the supervision of Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh.

Citizens have expressed concern over misuse of police authority

The commissioner himself recently conducted a late-night patrol in Koramangala, uncovering unauthorised loudspeaker use at several pubs. When Koramangala Inspector Lohi Ramareddy delayed providing satisfactory responses, he too faced suspension for dereliction of duty.

The Halasuru Gate officers were also implicated in lapses in criminal case investigations and accepting bribes. While the suspensions were based on verified evidence, experts emphasise that ongoing public trust hinges on structural reforms. Former IPS officer Anil Shetty noted, "Immediate punitive action is only the first step. The police leadership must implement rigorous monitoring, routine inspections, and transparent complaint channels to prevent recurring violations."

Citizens and business owners alike stress that accountability should be continuous, not reactive. The current episode highlights the need for senior police officials to focus on preventive measures, ethics training, and stricter supervisory mechanisms. "As Bengaluru grapples with increasing civic and security challenges, maintaining integrity within the police force is essential not only for law enforcement effectiveness but also for preserving public confidence," said Mohammed Kasim, a resident of Fraser Town.

Biometric attendance now mandatory for BEd students

BU to enforce tech-enabled attendance monitoring and surprise inspections, among other measures, as part of new strategy to curb malpractices in BEd colleges under its jurisdiction

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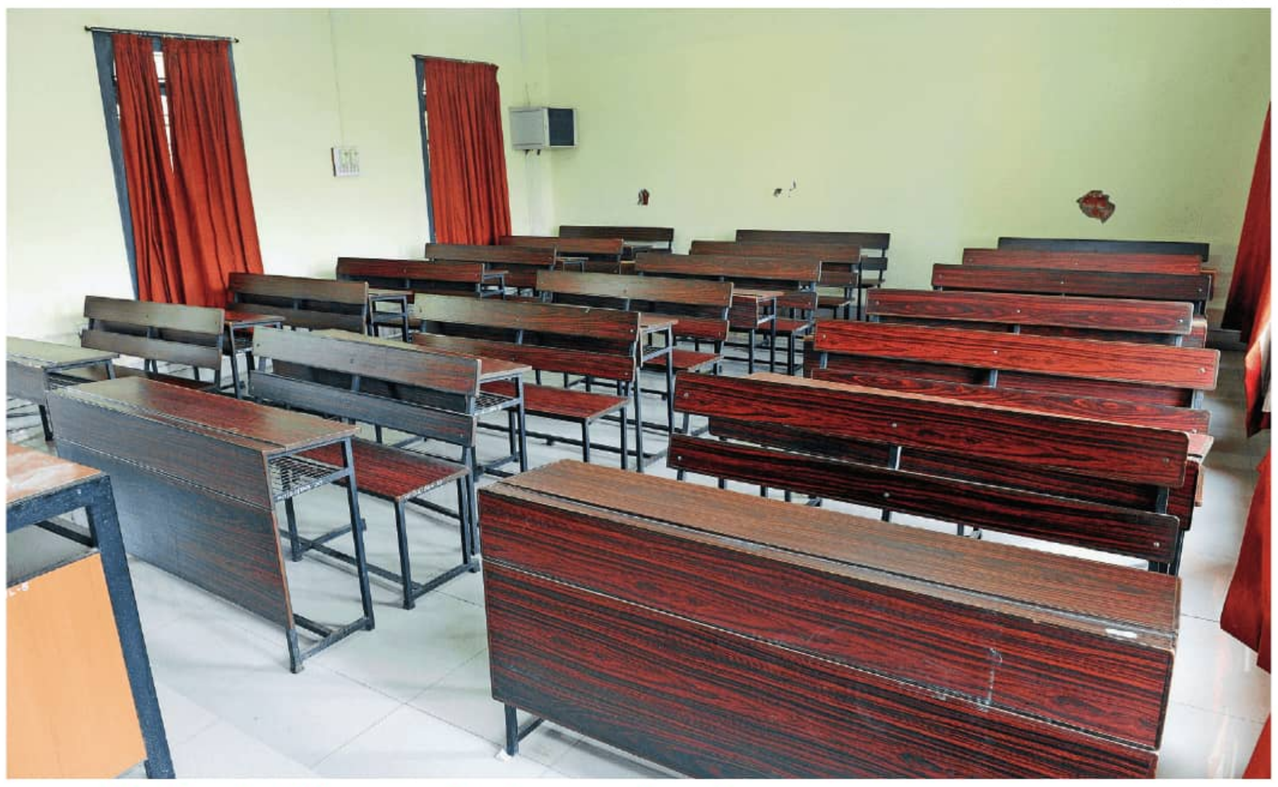
FILE PHOTO



In a bid to prevent 'proxy' attendance and ensure academic discipline, Bangalore University (BU) has decided to implement biometric attendance for not only teaching and non-teaching staff but also for BEd students across colleges affiliated to the university.

Reports have surfaced recently of BEd students gaining unauthorised entry into colleges under BU. Complaints indicate that some students, despite being physically absent for most of the academic term, appear only during exam periods to write their tests. To tackle this issue, Bangalore University convened a meeting with principals of all BEd colleges under its jurisdiction and formulated guidelines aimed at curbing such malpractices. As part of these measures, biometric attendance for students will now be strictly enforced.

To maintain and enhance academic standards, Bangalore University has also decided to conduct surprise inspections across the 30 BEd colleges within its policing circle. Increasing reports of absenteeism and student grievances have prompted these actions. "We have issued mandatory guidelines to all BEd colleges which must be strictly followed. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action against the institutions," said C Srinivas, University Registrar (Evaluation), Bangalore University.

Following increasing reports of absenteeism and student grievances, Bangalore University formulates new guidelines to rein in irregularities

Colleges' demands and university response

BEd colleges have requested the university to nominate principals of affiliated colleges to various authorities based on seniority and have also appealed for the establishment of a 'Bangalore University School of Education'. Currently, approximately 2,800 students are enrolled across these colleges. Previously, the university had sent examination question papers online for the BEd exams. Now, biometric attendance has been made compulsory. Additionally, the university will conduct surprise visits to colleges to monitor academic quality and attendance, complemented by periodic video conferences to stay updated on the colleges' progress and challenges.

Quality assurance and coordination status

To safeguard the quality of BEd education, the university has directed colleges to conduct academic activities strictly following the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and Bangalore University's guidelines. In cases where complaints about student absenteeism or non-conduct of BEd classes are received, the university has warned that affiliation to the BEd program may be revoked.

Pending mark sheets despite course completion

Another concern raised involves colleges withholding mark sheets from students who have completed their BEd courses. Several complaints have been lodged regarding this malpractice, which violates university regulations. The university has warned that disciplinary proceedings will be initiated against colleges that delay issuing mark sheets. However, many colleges still fail to provide mark sheets to students even after a year has passed since course completion.

FIR filed over false promises of marriage

A woman has filed an FIR against a man at Konanakunte Police Station, alleging that he lured her into a sexual relationship under the promise of marriage, resulting in pregnancy. She claims that when she sought to formalise the marriage, he threatened her with dire consequences.

The complainant, a housewife recently divorced from a man named Vinod Kumar, met the accused ABV Mathew in 2024 at an event held at a private school in Bengaluru, where he worked as a physical education teacher. She claimed she first encountered him while dropping her child at a cricket camp and alleged that he, originally from Kerala, targeted married women, gaining their trust before exploiting them sexually.

In her complaint, the woman stated that in September 2025, when she again requested marriage, ABV Mathew verbally abused and threatened her before going into hiding. In his statement, Mathew allegedly denied accusations of cheating or harassment. Konanakunte police have registered an FIR and are investigating the matter. **–BMB**

New mobile app for easier e-Khata applications

To simplify and streamline the e-Khata application process, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will soon launch a dedicated e-Khata mobile app. While applications have been accepted via Bangalore One centres, Cyber Centres, and a web-based platform, the new app will allow property owners—and their representatives—to submit applications directly from their mobile phones. The app uses the same software as the current web platform, requiring documents such as property sale deed, property tax receipt, owner's Aadhaar and mobile number, EC (Form-15), property photos, location details, and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) bill number.

"Currently, an average of 2,000–3,000 applications are processed daily through the web system, and officials expect these numbers to rise significantly once the mobile app is operational. The initiative aims to make property record management more accessible and convenient for Bengaluru's roughly 25 lakh properties," said the official. **–BMB**

Power play is bleeding Bescom

Bengaluru loses 2,000 units of power every hour and registers 1 theft case every 6 hours

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Power theft in the city is bleeding resources at a startling pace. Data from Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd (Bescom) reveals that on average one theft case is registered every six hours, while the city loses nearly 2,000 units of electricity every hour. To add to this, fines worth ₹1 lakh are imposed per hour, yet only ₹15,000 per hour is actually collected, highlighting the wide gap between enforcement and recovery.

Between 2022–23 and June 2025, Bengaluru saw 4,393 power theft cases, showing that despite strict vigilance measures and awareness campaigns, the menace continues to grow. In 2022–23, there were 1,255 cases. The following year, the number rose to 1,313, an increase of 58 cases or 4.6%. In 2024–25, it climbed further to 1,450, an absolute rise of 137 cases or 10.4%. In just the first quarter of 2025, 375 cases have already been booked, keeping the trend firmly upward. This translates to an average of four cases every day, or one case being detected and booked every six hours. Clearly, Bescom's increased inspections, awareness drives in schools and colleges, and toughened enforcement under Section 135 of the Electricity Act have not been enough to stem the rise.

Fines worth Rs 1 lakh are imposed per hour, only Rs 15,000 per hour collected, highlighting the wide gap

If the cases look worrying, the numbers on stolen electricity are even more staggering. Since 2022–23, Bengaluru has lost 14.34 million units of power to theft. In 2022–23, the loss stood at 2.46 million units. In 2023–24, it rose marginally to 2.50 million units, a rise of 0.04 million units or 1.6%. The following year, it increased again to 2.54 million units, another 0.04 million units or 1.6% jump. By June 2025, the city had already lost 0.84 million units.

On an hourly basis, this means nearly 2,000 units of electricity are being siphoned off every single hour. At this rate, Bescom fears that the annual loss in 2025 could cross 3 million units, enough to power thousands of households for a year.

Hefty fines, no recovery

Bescom has been imposing heavier fines over the years. In 2022–23, fines worth ₹8.57 crore were levied. In 2023–24, this jumped to ₹9.32 crore, an increase of ₹0.75 crore or 8.7%. By 2024–25, fines touched ₹10.11 crore, marking another ₹0.79 crore or 8.5% rise. In just the first quarter of 2025, fines worth ₹2.85 crore have been imposed. That works out to ₹1 lakh being slapped as fines every hour across the city. However, the real concern is the gap between what is imposed and what is collected.

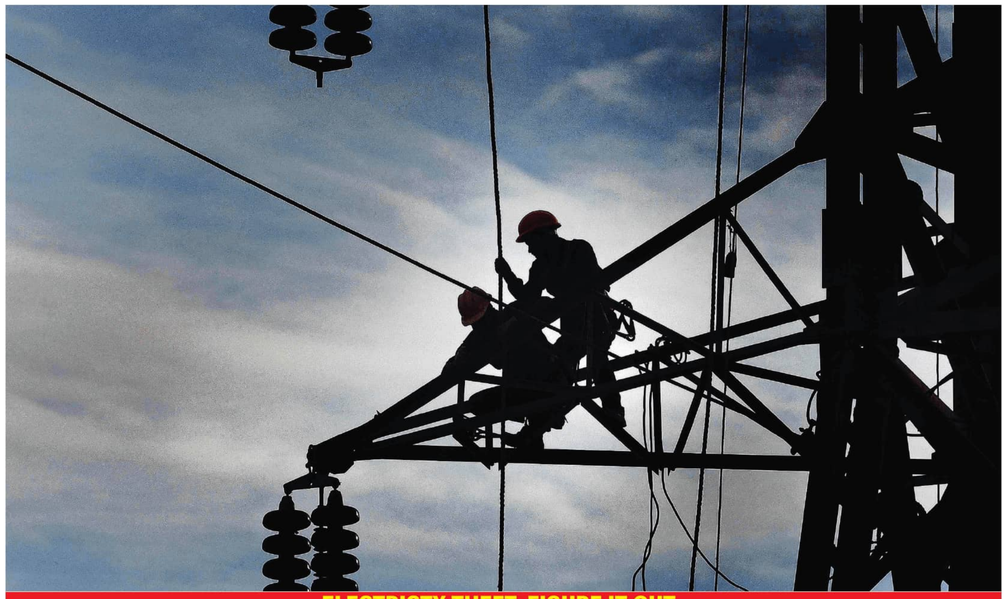
Against the total fines of ₹30.85 crore imposed in the last three years, only ₹17.38 crore has actually been collected. This means less than 60% of the penalties are recovered. Year-wise, Bescom collected ₹4.36 crore in 2022–23. The next year saw collections improve to ₹5.34 crore, an absolute increase of ₹0.98 crore or 22.4%. In 2024–25, collections rose again to ₹6.34 crore, an increase of ₹1 crore or 18.7%. In the first quarter of 2025, only ₹1.34 crore has been collected. On an hourly basis, this means Bescom is managing to recover just ₹15,000 per hour, far below the ₹1 lakh per hour that is being imposed.

Bescom has been more efficient in closing cases each year. In 2022–23, 1,198 cases were disposed of. The following year, the figure rose to 1,258, an increase of 60 or 5%. In 2024–25, the number touched 1,427, a jump of 169 cases or 13.4%. By June 2025, 344 cases have already been closed. "This shows that vigilance and legal teams are working faster, but the steady rise in new cases means the workload remains heavy and backlogs could still mount," said an official.

The big picture is clear: in absolute terms, every indicator is rising — theft cases, units lost, fines imposed, and even collections. In percentage terms, the rises appear modest, but cumulatively they point to a growing problem that drains both financial and energy resources.

Officials admit that misuse of domestic Griha Jyothi connections, theft at construction sites, and unauthorized industrial use remain hard to trace. Bypassing meters, tampering, and tapping into connections are widespread, and neighbours often fail to report them. "Until recovery mechanisms are tightened and accountability fixed, Bengaluru will continue to lose one case every six hours, 2,000 units every hour, and crores of rupees every year to power theft," said a civic activist.

According to Bescom officials, if illegal power use is detected during inspections, action is taken under Section 135 of the Indian Electricity Act, 2003. Offenders are fined three times the prescribed unit rate. Those who fail to pay fines will have charge sheets filed against them in court. The court can sentence offenders to a minimum of six months to a maximum of three years in prison, and impose restrictions on power supply ranging from three months to two years.



ELECTRICTY THEFT: FIGURE IT OUT

Year	Registered cases	Illegal electricity usage (Million Units)	Fines imposed (₹ crore)	Cases disposed of	Fines collected (₹ crore)
2022–23	1,255	2.46	8.57	1,198	4.36
2023–24	1,313	2.50	9.32	1,198	4.36
2024–25	1,450	2.54	10.11	1,427	4.36
2025 (till June)	375	0.84	2.85	344	1.34

A CASE IN POINT

All lit up, but where is electricity coming from?

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Meenakshi Layout have been complaining that the festivities at a local temple are creating issues with power and causing noise pollution in their area. As a lane outside the temple is lit up, power fluctuations have been common in the houses around.

Locals alleged the electrical contractor engaged by the temple committee has drawn electricity directly from street lights to illuminate decorative lights.

"Every year they celebrate some activities during dasara with sound and lights. And they draw electricity directly from the electric poles. This is causing electricity fluctuations and frequent fuse failures. This has to stop. All the residents in the layout are affected," said Lawrency Anthony, Secretary, Meenakshi Layout Welfare Association.

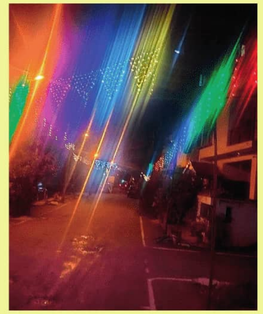
He said that he has already lodged a complaint with Bescom on September 22 seeking an investigation into drawing electricity from electric poles directly for illuminating decorative lights.

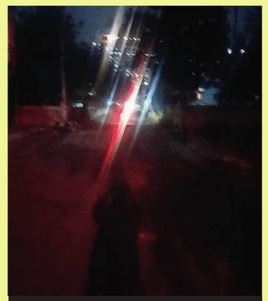
Expressing a similar opinion, Meenakshi Layout Welfare Association president JC Reddy said that residents have been suffering a lot due to noise pollution and fluctuations in electricity supply. "We have complained to the authorities against electricity being drawn from electric poles directly for lights," said Reddy.

Meanwhile, Sreenivas Reddy, a building owner, said that his tenants are concerned and complaining about loud music from 9 pm onwards.

Sai Krishna, a resident, said that temple authorities should refrain from disturbing residents with loudspeakers at night. "They ought to consider the layout as a residential area while celebrating festivals," he said.

Meanwhile, the Bescom assistant engineer confirmed that they have received a complaint from the residents against electricity being drawn directly from the electric pole. "I will ensure disconnection of electricity supply for the decorative lights," he said.





In the evening as soon as lights outside the temple come on, the streetlights go off in Meenakshi Layout

Don't snatch our BPL cards away: Slum dwellers, workers protest

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More than a 100 slum residents and unorganised workers from across Bengaluru staged a protest on Wednesday in front of the Department of Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs. The demonstration, supported by several local organisations, was held in response to the government's ongoing verification exercise that has left many Below Poverty Line (BPL) families anxious about losing their ration cards.

The protesters alleged that local fair price shops have begun displaying lists of "ineligible" BPL cardholders, marking them for conversion into Above Poverty Line (APL) cards. Criteria such as earning more than Rs 10,000 per month, owning a four-wheeler, not drawing ration for several months, or even filing a single tax return have been used to disqualify families. Many workers argued that these measures are unscientific and fail to reflect the precarious nature of their livelihoods.

Following the protest, a delegation met Food Commissioner VV Jyotsna to press their demands. They urged the government to immediately halt the cancellation process and to re-examine its income limits and disqualification rules. According to members of the group, the government cannot equate occasional tax filings, vehicle ownership, or gaps in ration collection with stable prosperity.

The Commissioner assured the gathering that ration cards would not be cancelled outright. She explained that the current exercise was intended only to verify eligibility and encouraged affected families to file formal complaints. More than 25 grievances were submitted by residents on Wednesday itself.

Erroneously APL

Several families highlighted how the process has unfairly pushed them into the "APL" category. Muniyamma, a heart patient from Janata Colony, said she was denied a BPL card despite her fragile health condition. Sivagami, a widowed woman, explained that her son's separate income was wrongly linked to her card, which she continues to depend on. Ramu, a bookbinder from Bhakshi Garden, pointed out that a one-off tax filing made him ineligible despite having no steady income. Anush, an Uber driver, said his rental car was misclassified as personal ownership. Sundaravalli, aged 60, lost access to rations after biometric failures, while Manjula, a domestic worker, was marked ineligible after missing ration collection for two months because of her work schedule.

Activists added that ragpicker families often fail fingerprint authentication, leaving them unable to access rations for months. Contract workers earning modest monthly salaries were also being penalised despite not having employment throughout the year. They stressed that such errors and rigid rules are pushing the most vulnerable households further into insecurity.

The protesters also submitted a five-point demand charter. They called for the immediate withdrawal of the cancellation order, cancellation of verification deadlines, consultation with civic organisations on eligibility criteria, and a new survey of BPL households. They further urged the government to revisit the monthly income ceiling of Rs 10,000, which they described as unrealistic in today's economy.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, one of the organisers said that the BPL card is not just a subsidy document but a lifeline for thousands of families who depend on it for food security and dignity.

Protesters gather outside Department of Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs on Wednesday

Peenya, Hebbal, Majestic in the red zone

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Researchers say that PCB exposure and carcinogenic risk may be higher in the industrial area due to dense manufacturing units of various types, including electrical and electronic sectors. They caution that the area with lakhs of workers working in thousands of industries, tightly packed in a small area.

Researchers also used an exposure risk model to assess the carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic risks of population exposure to PCBs. The finding indicates that the carcinogenic risk through inhalation exposure was lower than the permissible limit for the urban population. The population residing near industrial, traffic, commercial, and residential areas has a slightly higher carcinogenic risk through inhalation exposure and dermal contact.

According to experts, polychlorinated biphenyls are persistent environmental pollutants, and long-term exposure to this compound, especially through inhalation, increases the risk of liver and lung cancers.

Even at low levels, PCBs accumulate in fatty tissues, leading to chronic health issues such as liver damage, skin disorders, and metabolic disturbances.

According to experts, polychlorinated biphenyls are persistent environmental pollutants, and long-term exposure to this compound, especially through inhalation, increases the risk of liver and lung cancers

The toxic chemical also affects the nervous system, contributing to memory loss, cognitive decline, and developmental disorders in children, particularly with prenatal exposure. Continuous inhalation can irritate the respiratory tract, worsening asthma, bronchitis, and other breathing problems.

Communities near industrial areas or hazardous waste sites face higher risks, making air-quality monitoring and emission control essential for protecting public health.

Researchers from ICMR-Regional Occupational Health Centre (Southern), NIOH, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Department of Environmental Science of Periyar University in Salem, and ICMR-Vector Biology and Control, Vector Control research Centre (VCRC) in Puducherry have recommended that to alleviate the situation and safeguard both human and environmental health, the health effects of these contaminants must be addressed.

Regulating combustion processes to reduce PCB emissions, monitoring aging electrical equipment and waste incinerators for leaks, controlling airborne PCB particles with dust suppressants or water sprays, and using windbreaks and tree buffers to limit their spread near industrial sites are some measures suggested.

"Continuous monitoring of other toxic contaminants and investigations of biomarkers in these areas are highly recommended," the researchers have underlined.

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personal

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I, Muniraju R/O Chikkanahalli Mandigere Nelamangala B'lore 562123 Have changed my name Muniraju C R to Muniraju for all future purposes.

I Khaleel S/O, Mohammed Haneef R/o No 37 Chand Layout Varalakshmi Nagar 2nd Cross, Jigani Anekal, Bengaluru - 560105 have changed my name to Khaleel Ahmed.

I, Venkatesha Hosapete Puttaiah S/o, Puttaiah R/o No 46,10th A Cross,kempegowda Layout, Prashanthnagar, B'luru 560079 have changed my name to Venkatesh Hosapete Puttaiah.

I, Abhishek, s/o Jagadish Betageri, R/o 1st Cross Ashwini Nagar, Haveri Town & Taluk, Haveri-581110, Karnataka have changed my Name to Abhishek Jagadish Betageri for all Purposes.

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I, Nethravathi W/o Shivakumar.S.M R/o Near Srirama Sawmill,5th Cross,sonnapanahalli,Bettahal asur Post, B'luru 562157 have changed my name to Nethravathi Appegowdanahalli Sriramreddy.

I, BHAVIN JAGDISHBHAI DESAI residing at No. 549, Ninashree Apartment, 16th Main, 15th Cross, Sector 4, HSR Layout, Bangalore-560102 had mentioned my minor son's name as TANMAY BHAVIN DESAI, but correct actual name is TANMAY DESAI vide affidavit dated 11-09-2025 before notary K V Mani, Bangalore.

I Bala Subramanya, S/o Surya Narayanappa, Residing At, No 26, K.M.F. Dairy, Vadermanchenahalli, Kalbalu, Jigani, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Rural, 560083, have changed my name to Bala Subramanya Surya Narayanappa for all purposes.

I Manjula Bevinahally Narasimha Murthy W/O, Bellur Subba Rao Ramanath R/o No 99/a 1st N Block, 6th Cross, 20th Main, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560010 have changed my name to Manjula Bevinahally Ramanath.

I Alisha D/O, Navaz Pasha R/o 572, 30 Th B Cross Tilaknagar Jayanagar Bangalore -41 have changed my name to Alisha Naz for all purposes

Change of Name

I, Mohamed Hasham S/o late Mohamed Husen Sab Mohammed, residing at 12th Ward, Devanga street, Koratagere Town, Tumkur district, stating that, my name is wrongly mentioned in the passport as Mohammed Hasham S/o late Husainsaab Mohammed. But, my correct name is **Mohamed Hasham S/o late Mohamed Husen Sab** as per Aadhar & Pan card etc. I hereby request all the concerned authorities to consider my name as Mohamed Hasham S/o late Mohamed Husen sab. Therefore, I have filed an affidavit before Notary and Lawyer Madhusudhana .S.K on 23.09.2025.

I Ganesha Huded S/O, Shankrappa Huded R/o No 364 2nd Floor Shri Guru Basava Bda Layout 2nd Stage J P Nagar 9th Phase Avalahalli Bengaluru - 560062 have changed my name to Ganesh Huded.

LOST & FOUND

I, Syed Afnaan Akhtar #425, RMS Heights, Arekere, Bangalore have lost my 10th ICSE marksheet, Unique ID: 7438919

Loss of Document

Rajanna R, Door No 12, Nisarga Nilaya Nagenahalli, Singanayakanahalli Post Chickballapura, Karnataka, 562101. Property belongs to me at Kundana village, Devenahalli taluk, Bangalore rural district Sy. No.154 related original Sale deed as been accidentally lost. If any finds request to give to above address or contact 8553658606.

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TRICHY RAMESHWARAM KANYAKUMARI 5/7*10** DAYS:
SEPT: 26, 28* OCT: 1, 2**, 5*, 6, 6* 6** 11, 12* 16, 21, 22** 26*
ANDHRA PRADESH WITH STATUE OF EQUALITY 10/6* DAYS:
OCT: 2, 5*, 12, 12* 19* 22 NOV: 2, 12, 22
SHIRDI NASIK/PANCHA JYOTHIRLINGA* 7* DAYS:
SEPT: 28, 29* OCT: 5, 6*, 12, 13* 19, 20*, 26 27* NOV: 3*, 10*, 17*
KERALA SPL./ NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN* 7/4* DAYS:
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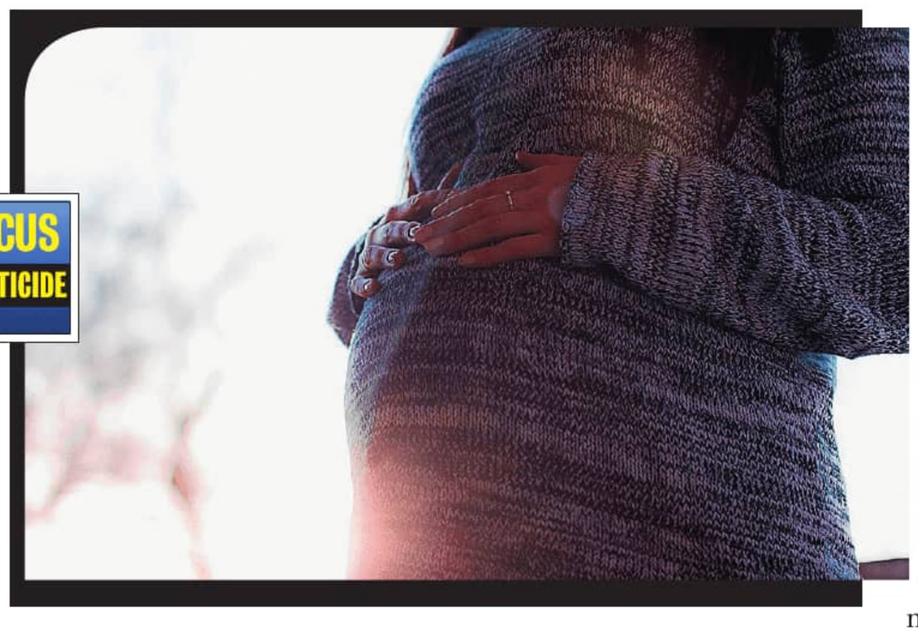
Decoys take down Andhra racket

Cross-border undercover mission exposes middlemen, illegal scans, abortion networks preying on vulnerable families from Karnataka at AP clinics

INFOCUS FEMALE FOETICIDE



In a first-of-its-kind move, Karnataka's Health Department carried out a dramatic decoy operation across state borders, busting an illegal female foeticide racket in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

The sting-style mission, executed in close coordination with Andhra authorities, revealed how organised middlemen lured vulnerable families from Karnataka into undergoing sex determination scans and unlawful abortions.

The case originated in Mandya when health workers noticed a frail 30-year-old pregnant woman, already a mother of three girls, during routine checks. On being gently questioned, she disclosed she had been told through an agent that her foetus was female. She had already paid ₹7,000 and was asked for another ₹20,000 for a termination in Andhra Pradesh.

Sensing the gravity, officials decided to turn the case into a decoy. A special team led by Karnataka PCPNDT nodal officer Dr. Vivek Dorai and his Andhra counterpart Dr. K.V.N.S. Anil Kumar drew up a detailed plan. The woman and her husband agreed to act as decoys and travelled with the team on September 21 to Basha Nursing Home in Kodumuru, Kurnool district, carrying pre-recorded currency notes.

At the hospital, an agent identified as Seethamma accepted ₹7,500 from the couple. Officials later cross-verified the serial numbers, confirming the exchange. Seethamma also revealed that abortions were being arranged through a local RMP doctor in Guntakal, even providing his contact number to the decoys.

Every step of the undercover operation—from the discreet handover of money to the assurances given by the agent—was carefully documented to build foolproof evidence. By the end, authorities had secured the money trail, detailed witness statements, and significant information about the wider abortion network.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao hailed the operation as "landmark action." He said, "This decoy proves that no matter where such crimes occur—inside or outside Karnataka—we will track and crack them. Female foeticide is a crime against humanity, and these networks will not be tolerated."

Officials emphasised this was not a routine raid but a calculated undercover mission. They confirmed more such decoy operations will follow, particularly along the Karnataka-Andhra border, where agents exploit secrecy and easy access for illegal scans and abortions. —BMB

From forest to revenue dept: Encroachment case inches along

Letter sent to Revenue Dept 3 years after land was okayed for compensatory afforestation use

The Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has approached the Revenue Department to clear encroachment from a parcel of land identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) in lieu of diversion of forest land for a drinking water project in the Western Ghats area.

KFD has issued this clarification to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) after the tribunal, a few months ago, took suo motu cognizance of an article in Bangalore Mirror (BM) highlighting this issue.

Following the article, the NGT, in July 2024, had sent notices to the regional office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), demanding clarification.

However, the letter to the Revenue Department to clear the encroachment was sent on September 11, three years after the Forest Department issued a suitability certificate to the user agency for CA land.

"The proposed dam is to be constructed over the Markandeya River. So far, Stage-I clearance has not been given by the Central Government. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghatprabha Division, Gokak, will survey the area, and a boundary will be constructed by installing boundary stones. As the land which has been identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) belongs to the Revenue Department, the Forest Department has addressed a letter dated 11.09.2025 to clear the encroachment," the assistant conservator of Forests of the division has clarified in the report submitted with NGT.

In its July 2, 2024 edition, BM wrote about a site inspection report by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), highlighting that portion of the land parcel identified by the user agency and recommended by KFD in 2022 for CA is under encroachment.

The clarification issued by the Department also states that Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghatprabha Division, Gokak, visited the CA land areas in March 2022 and, based on the vegetation, soil quality, and the land parcels being adjacent to existing forest lands, the official gave suitability certificates for the said land parcels.

However, experts question the suitability certificate issued by the Department when a considerable parcel of this land was under encroachment.

"The department should have conducted a ground check before allocating the land for compensatory afforestation and before sending the application to MoEF&CC. The letter written to the Revenue Department a few days ago should have been sent in 2022," said a wildlife conservationist. —BMB

INBRIEF

Five-day Cauvery Aarti begins from Friday

As part of the grand Dasara festivities, a five-day "Cauvery Aarti" will begin at the KRS reservoir on Friday, September 26. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will inaugurate the event by offering floral tributes and performing sacred rituals to River Cauvery. Mandya District In-charge Minister N Cheluvarayaswamy confirmed that several legislators and prominent seers will participate. A 40-member team, including 13 priests and their assistants, will conduct the elaborate ceremonies. Inspired by the famous Ganga Aarti, the Karnataka government introduced this initiative after delegations studied similar rituals in Varanasi and Haridwar. —BMB

Panel to review controversial crowd bill

A legislative committee led by Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara has been set up to examine the proposed Crowd Control Bill, introduced after the Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede. The bill, which faced stiff opposition during the last Assembly session, was referred for detailed review. Committee members include Minister HK Patil and legislators Rizwan Arshad, N Srinivasaiah, D Ravishankar, Srinivas Mane, Prakash Koliwad, HD Thammaiah, V Sunil Kumar, SR Vishwanath, and GD Harish Gowda. The committee must submit its report within three months. —BMB

Poll panel urges deferring city roll update

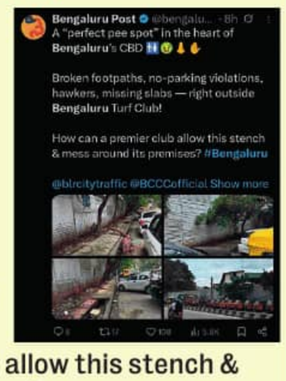
The State Election Commissioner has urged the Chief Election Commissioner of India to defer the proposed Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bengaluru until civic elections to the newly formed five municipal corporations under the jurisdiction of the Joint Bengaluru Authority (JBA) are concluded.

The request comes at a time when election preparations are underway in the capital, and political tensions are high. The state cabinet has already stirred debate with its decision to conduct upcoming civic polls using ballot papers instead of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Adding to the controversy, the Congress party has been staging nationwide protests against the SIR process, particularly after it was carried out in Bihar, terming it politically motivated. Opposition parties in Karnataka, however, accuse the ruling Congress of attempting to delay electoral roll revision for its advantage. The call to defer SIR has thus triggered sharp political reactions across the state. —BMB

SOCIALTATTLE

What's tweeting

@bengalurupost is pointing to a "perfect pee spot" in the heart of Bengaluru's CBD **** They write: Broken footpaths, no-parking violations, hawkers, missing slabs — right outside Bengaluru Turf Club!
How can a premier club allow this stench & mess around its premises?
https://x.com/bengalurupost1/status/1970739895212941356?t=PMJc5vLHUHOycdgEZGy8LQ&s=08


Bengaluru Post @bengalu... · 8h
A "perfect pee spot" in the heart of Bengaluru's CBD
Broken footpaths, no-parking violations, hawkers, missing slabs — right outside Bengaluru Turf Club!
How can a premier club allow this stench & mess around its premises? #Bengaluru
@blrcitytraffic @BCCCofficial Show more

@deepanshu jain has got a delux auto, folks!

Deepanshu Jain @deepansh... · 1d
Forget Uber Black. I got Auto Deluxe!
Sanitizer ✅ Charging port ✅ Notebook & pen ✅ Water bottle ✅ Mirror ✅ Tissue ✅ Even a lighter
A Desi Business Class!
@peakbengaluru @THBengaluru @BangaloreMirror @bangalore @BangaloreTimes1

Image of the day

@nabilajamal has posted this picture that gives you a heads-up on the challans your vehicle may have: Now showing, your car's pending traffic challans on a AI billboard in Bengaluru

Nabila Jamal @nabilajamal_ · 4h
#Bengaluru's AI billboard now flashes your pending traffic challans in real time at Trinity Circle
Screen connected to cameras that scan your vehicle's registration up to 100 meters away
Aims to promote responsible driving & road safety. Pilot supported by Cars24 & Bengaluru Show more
KA 13 D 43

Bangalore Mirror tagged

@nimmabhaskar22 has this advice for fellow citizens: Dear Bengalurians, please Solve your driving discomfort. Please reduce your tyre pressure in Bengaluru to 30-32 from 34-36. Your tyres will marginally reduce discomfort when you are driving on uneven and potholed road. Please try..
https://x.com/Nimmabhaskar22/status/1970515276325331116?t=gWEClpogKpaM-l01QZl3kQ&s=08

Bhaskar Rao @Nimmabhaskar22
Dear Bengalurians, please Solve your driving discomfort. Please reduce your tyre pressure in Bengaluru to 30-32 from 34-36. Your tyres will marginally reduce discomfort when you are driving on uneven and potholed road. Please try..
9:17 PM · 23 Sep 25 · 45.1K Views

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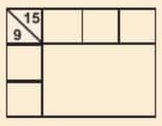
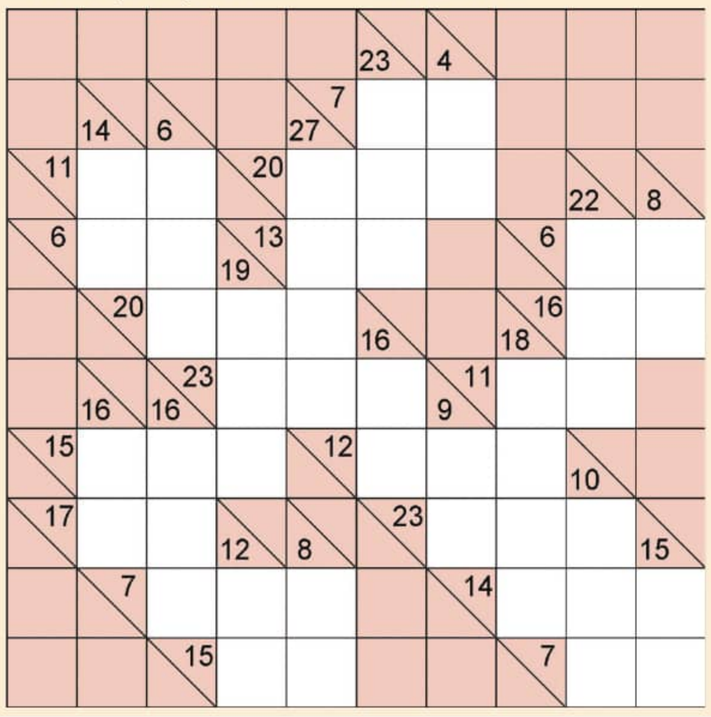
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

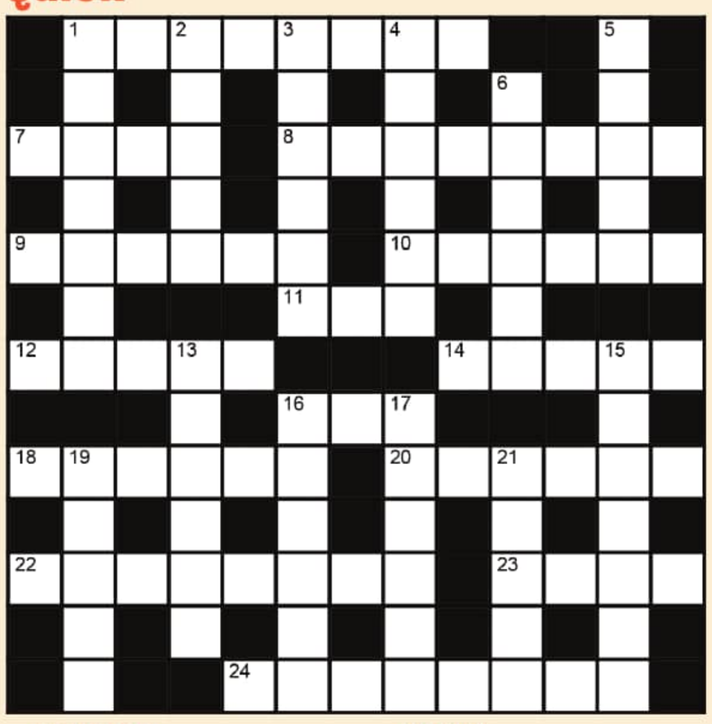
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 City in Saurashtra (8)
7 The French for 'blue' (4)
8 Took a different path (8)
9 Frenzied (6)
10 Set alight (6)
11 The sesame plant (3)
12 Vice ___ : the inverse? (5)
14 Having pointed nose (5)
16 Secret police of erstwhile USSR (3)
18 Karnataka's royal city (6)
20 Find the worth of for taxation purposes (6)
22 ___ ___, want not.... so the saying goes? (5,3)
23 P. Simon's '_ ___ _ Rock' (1,2,1)
24 Impresario (8)

DOWN

1 Valletta resident? (7)
2 Poke fun at (5)
3 Slave to a narcotic (6)
4 Reveal (6)
5 To wrench away (5)
6 Cavort (6)
13 Snobbish (6)
15 Srinagar locale (7)
16 Sharper (6)
17 Small breed of fowl (6)
19 Long for (5)
21 Avoid out of fear (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS U

VZHUSENK UNCEK YFEN BEFY PZCO TFW CEN OZCK PZCO TFW ONCVZ.

Linemaro

If you could see yourself with my eyes, you would realise how special you are to me

Mindchow

"We are made by love, we are made of love, and we are made for love."

Joke of the day

As the plane was flying low over some hills near Athens, a lady asked the stewardess: "What's that stuff on those hills?" "Just snow," replied the stewardess. "That's what I thought," said the lady, "but this fellow in front of me said it was Greece."

Loop

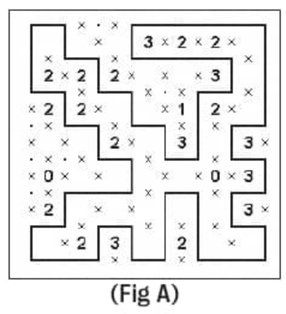
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

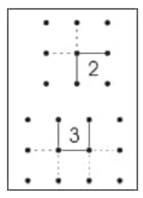
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

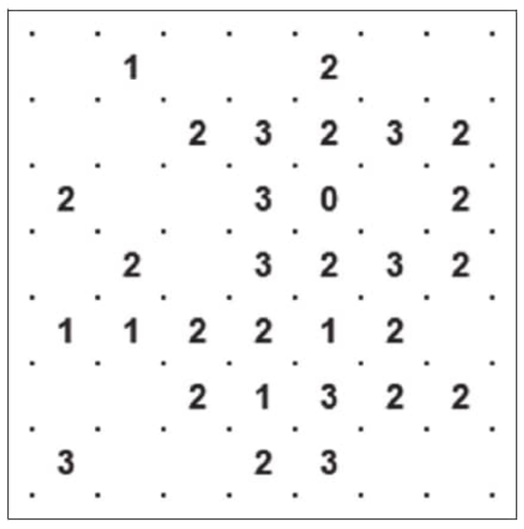
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



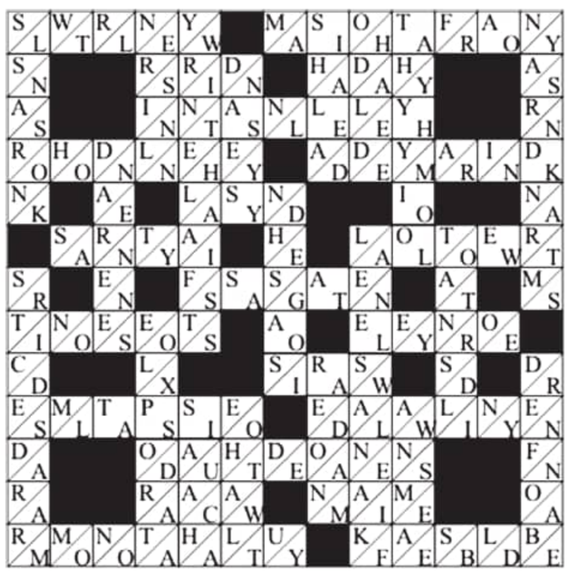
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



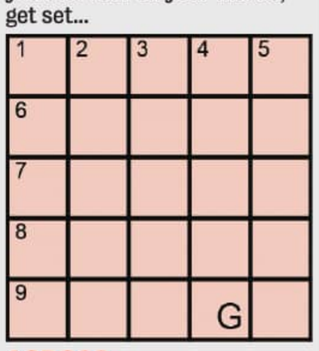
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

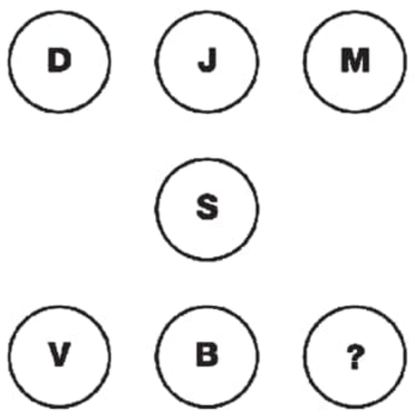
1 Sty ID; 6 Toe me; 7 As by a; 8 Genoa; 9 Song G

DOWN

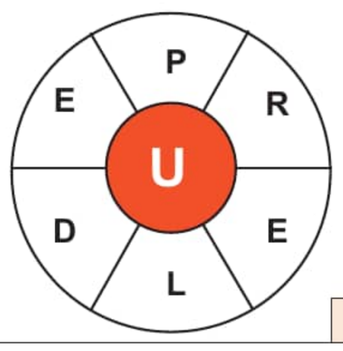
1 Badge; 2 Amigo; 3 Yon to; 4 Tangs; 5 Essey

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

6			3				1	8
						5	2	
		5		8		9		
		4	9		8			1
	8	6				2	4	
5			7		2	8		
		9		1		4		
	1	7						
2	6				4			3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 17

4 5 7 9

Medium = 15

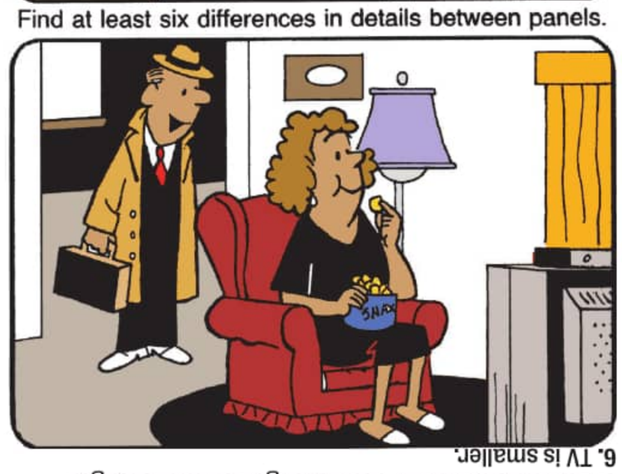
4 5 8 9

Hard = 2

5 7 8 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



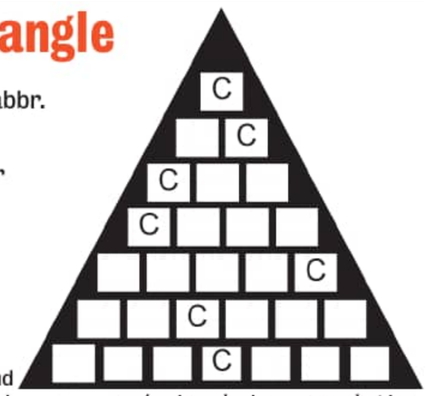
Differences: 1. Cable wire is missing. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Button is added. 4. Coat is longer. 5. Hair is longer. 6. TV is smaller.

Riddler

What do the following words have in common? current, by, dew, faze, loan & ate

Alpha triangle

1 Vitamin type
2 Air conditioner, abbr.
3 Is able
4 Genesis figure
5 Unreasoning fear
6 Stepping
7 Positioning



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

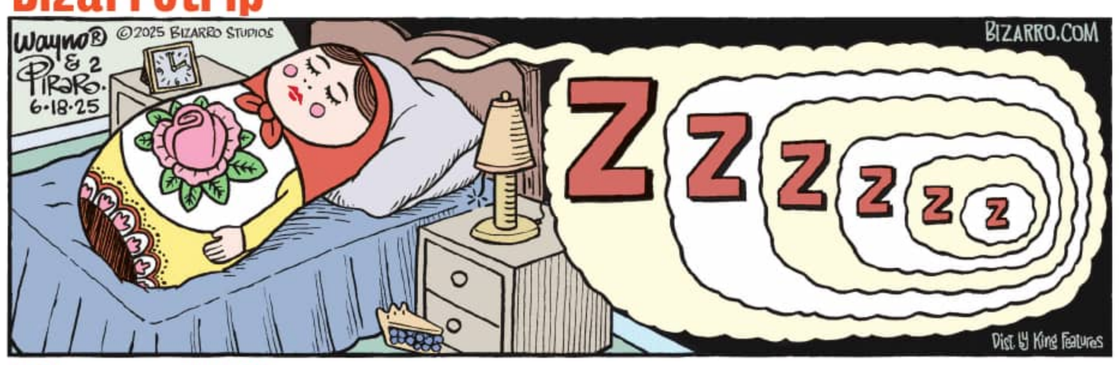
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

THE DESERT SUN IS STARTIN' TA FRY ME BRAINS!
POOR OLIVE... I HAS'TA FIND HER B'FORE SHE GITS DEHYDRA-MATED!
GULP!
PARDING ME ....FER A SECOND I THOUGHT YA WAS ME SWEETIE!
?
12-27
©2024 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
popeye.com

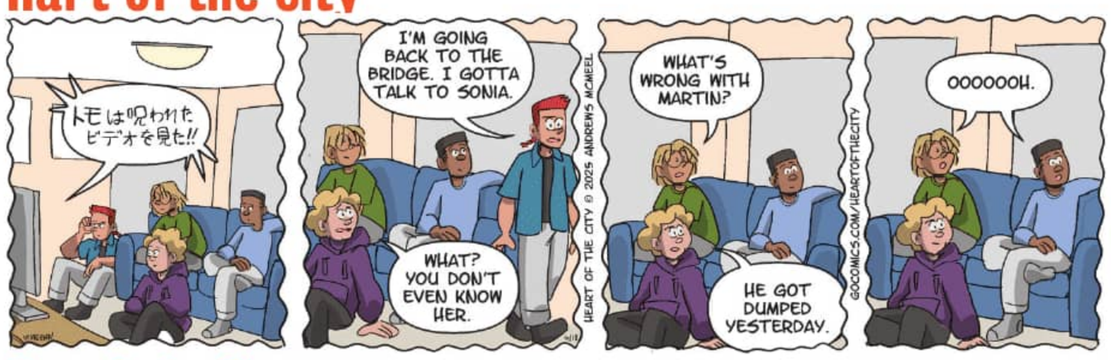
Bizarrotrip



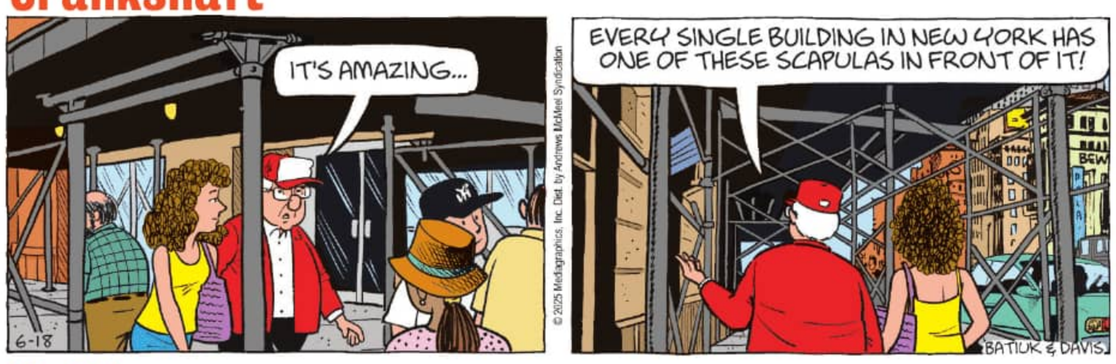
Diamond Lil

EDNA, HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR HOT DOGS COOKED?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, DO YOU LIKE THEM ALL BLACK AND SPLIT OPEN?
YUCK! NO!
PICK UP A PACK OF WIENERS, TOO
AM I A GUEST OR THE CATERER?
6/18
©2014 creators.com
www.creators.com

Hart of the city


トモは呪われたビデオを見た!!
I'M GOING BACK TO THE BRIDGE. I GOTTA TALK TO SONIA.
WHAT? YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HER.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MARTIN?
HE GOT DUMPED YESTERDAY.
OOOOOOH.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


IT'S AMAZING...
EVERY SINGLE BUILDING IN NEW YORK HAS ONE OF THESE SCAPULAS IN FRONT OF IT!
6-18
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your year holds endless potential. Finances improve when you make informed, intentional choices. Career paths expand through innovation and resilience. Love deepens as you embrace vulnerability. Luck arrives through social connections and partnerships. Tip: Nurture your relationships, building strong bonds will create a network of support and open doors to opportunities that align with your dreams.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Energy surges, use it to push forward on projects that matter. Your determination inspires those around you, creating momentum and opening doors to meaningful achievements in work and personal growth.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Prioritize rest and self-care. Simple, nurturing activities, like a warm meal or time in nature—help you recharge emotionally, ensuring you approach upcoming responsibilities with renewed energy and focus.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Your ideas shine, share them with confidence. Networking or collaborating with like-minded people brings exciting opportunities, strengthening your influence and helping you move closer to your professional and personal goals.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Emotional growth begins with acknowledging your needs. Be honest with yourself and others, fostering understanding in your relationships. These heartfelt conversations deepen trust and create harmony in your personal connections.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Recognition feels well-deserved, accept it graciously. Use this encouragement to pursue bigger goals with confidence. Your charisma and determination continue to attract people who support your vision and believe in your potential.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Organization brings peace. Streamline your to-do list and prioritize effectively. This focused approach allows you to accomplish more without unnecessary stress, creating space for personal time and creative exploration.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Relationships flourish when you express gratitude. Celebrate the people who support you with words or actions that show appreciation. These small gestures nurture bonds and create harmony in your personal world.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Embrace personal evolution, changes in mindset or environment align with your growth. Trust these transformations to lead you toward greater fulfillment and purpose, even if they challenge your comfort zone.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Explore new opportunities for growth. Travel, learning, or creative endeavors spark joy and broaden your perspective, motivating you to pursue fresh paths that align with your adventurous spirit.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Steady progress defines your day. Focus on long-term goals, knowing each disciplined step you take now strengthens the foundation for the success you're working diligently to achieve.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Collaborate with people who share your vision. Combining talents creates innovative solutions, helping bring ambitious projects to life while building meaningful connections that enrich your journey personally and professionally.

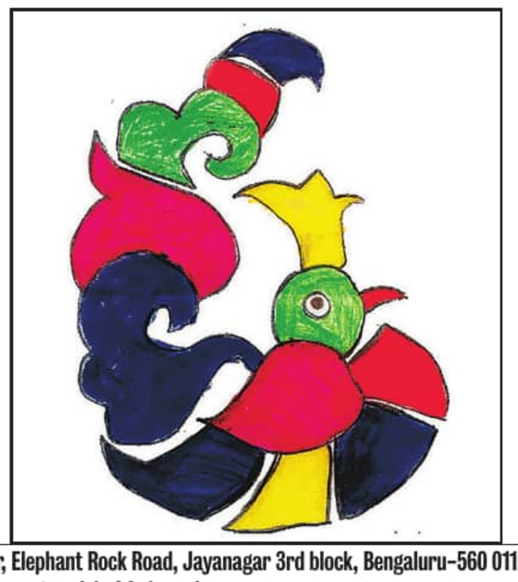
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Quiet reflection fosters emotional healing. Engage in meditative or creative practices that bring peace, preparing you to face future challenges with a calm and balanced heart.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Indra, Bengaluru



Vaishnavi V Rao Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

[√25(2)-√9(2)-√4(2)] [50-26] =
[5√2-3√2-2√2][24] = [5√2-5√2][24] = [0][24] = 0

RIDDLER They all have homonyms: currant (currency), buy (by), due (dew), phase (faze), lone (loan) & eight (ate)

FAST FIVE

D	I	T	S	Y
E	M	O	T	E
B	A	Y	A	S
A	G	O	N	E
G	O	N	G	S

BULL'S EYE

duel, dupe, elude, lure, lured, PRELUDE, prude, pure, puree, pureed, purl, purled, rule, ruled, rupee

STRIKE OUT

S	T	R	E	W		A	S	H	T	R	A	Y		
N		R	I		D		H	A	H			A		
A		I	N	A	N	E	L	Y				R		
R	O	D	N	E	Y		D	E	M	A	N	D		
K		A		L	S	D		O				A		
S		E		A	L	T	E	R				M		
I	N	S	E	T		A		E	Y	R	E			
D		X			S	A	W		S		D			
E	L	A	P	S	E		E	L	A	I	N	E		
A		O	U	T	D	O	E	S				F		
R		R	I	C	A		N	A	E			O		
M	O	N	T	H	L	Y		F	A	B	L	E		

QUICK

				P	R	O	M	O	T	E	R			N
					Y		E		A		I			R
W	A	S	T	E	N	O	T		I	A	M	A		
	E		O		E		N		K		H			
M	Y	S	O	R	E		A	S	S	E	S	S		
	N		K	G	B				B	E	A	K	Y	
V	E	R	S	A										
	S				T	I	L		C					
H	E	C	T	I	C		I		G	N	I	T	E	
	T		N		I		E		A		S			
B	L	E	U		D	I	V	E	R	G	E	D		
	A		D		N		P		R					
M	I	T	H	A	P	U	R							W

MENSA PUZZLE

E. Start at the top left, and move around the diagram in a Z shape. The numerical value of the letters increases alternately by 6, then 3.

QUOTE UNCODE

Children learn more from what you are than what you teach.

SUDOKU

6	4	2	3	5	9	7	1	8
8	9	3	4	7	1	5	2	6
1	7	5	2	8	6	9	3	4
7	2	4	9	6	8	3	5	1
9	8	6	1	3	5	2	4	7
5	3	1	7	4	2	8	6	9
3	5	9	6	1	7	4	8	2
4	1	7	8	2	3	6	9	5
2	6	8	5	9	4	1	7	3

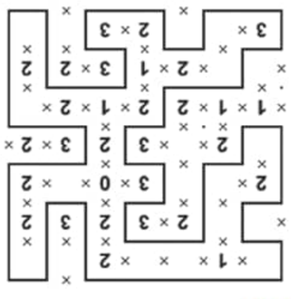
ALPHA TRIANGLE

C, AC, Can, Cain, Panic, Pacing, Placing.

GO FIGURE

Easy
5 + 7 – 4 + 9 = 17
Medium
4 + 8 – 9 x 5 = 15
Hard
9 – 7 x 5 – 8 = 2

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # Kannada OTT The Karnataka government has formed a 10-member team to prepare a report on creating an OTT platform for promotion of Kannada films

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Kantara prequel

The much-awaited movie of 2025, Kantara Chapter 1 is set to be released at around 7,000 screens across the country. Its trailer was released on Monday. Kantara Chapter 1 is scheduled to arrive in theaters on October 2. The movie, produced under the Hombale Films banner by Vijay Kiragandur, is directed by Rishab Shetty, who also plays the lead.

"The movie is being released in 30 countries. Director Shetty and his team will begin the promotional programme on September 28. ," said producer Vijay Kiragandur.

Shetty thanked his team and producer Kiragandur for their support. "Kantara Chapter 1 is my meditation for five years. We shot the movie at difficult locations. Many people have worked hard to put up sets for this movie. It is divine power that helped me to complete this movie. I thank all those including the Minister for Forests for their cooperation. The producer has provided livelihood to around four lakh people during the shooting," said Shetty.

Sidekick to lead

Cockroach Sudhi, known for playing the sidekick and villain in around 100 movies, debuts as a hero with Chaildu. The movie will be directed by Prakash Hebbala known for Haftha that was released in 2019. Hebbala makes a comeback after a gap of six years. The movie's title was unveiled by social worker Kiran Reddy at SRV Theater on Monday.

Director Hebbala said Chaildu will be an out and out commercial movie. "The movie's title is fixed as Chaildu because the hero's nature is childlike. The movie will have horror, crime and suspense elements. We began shooting from Tuesday and will shoot in Bengaluru, Bidar, and Bagalkot," said Hebbala.

Thanking the director for selecting him as a hero, Cockroach Sudhi said Chaildu is his third movie as a hero. "I am also assigned to play the lead in Karthik alias Cockroach and Fida. I happened to act in a movie directed by Prakash Hebbala a few years ago. I remember the director's assurance to give me one more chance to act under his direction. I want to play all types of roles in future," said Sudhi.

'Timely satire'

For Leonardo DiCaprio, explaining the synopsis for his new action thriller film "One Battle After Another" is no easy feat.

"I think it's probably because it's a complex thing to articulate, but at the heart of it, I think the movie's a lot to do with humanity. It's a lot to do with polarization in the world that we live in, extremism on both ends," the "Titanic" actor said. The movie follows Bob Ferguson, played by DiCaprio, and his wife Perfidia Beverly Hills, played by singer Teyana Taylor. They are a loving but strained couple that embark on daring humanitarian missions in modern-day America.

"It's not a film where people are imposing any political beliefs on anyone else," DiCaprio said. "It's satire on both ends. It's a great film to have coming out in today's world. I think it's important." In the movie, Perfidia suddenly disappears soon after giving birth. Bob changes his identity and goes off the grid to raise their child as a single parent.

When an enemy resurfaces after 16 years for revenge, Bob must work to rescue his kidnapped daughter.

—Reuters

WALKING ON EGGSHELLS

Amrita Rao talks of how she learnt to cope with industry politics

Amrita Rao may have debuted with the 2002 film 'Ab Ke Baras' but she catapulted to success with the 2003 hit film, 'Ishq Vishk'.

The film not only made her a household name but also earned her recognition alongside Shahid Kapoor.

One of the first setbacks came with a magazine cover photoshoot. Rao recalled on 'The Ranveer Show', "I remember when 'Ishq Vishk' released, Shahid and I had won the Face of the Year, the Superstar of Tomorrow, or some award like that. There was a photoshoot that was planned for the cover of that magazine. I was seated with the award. Shahid was standing behind me with the award. There were two superstar actresses who were seated on either side. There was another very, very famous actor and actress, again very, very famous. That was the layout of the cover."

Excitement soon turned to disappointment when the final cover appeared. "When I saw the cover, it was all photoshopped! I was moved to the background, and somebody else was in the foreground. That wasn't what the cover was supposed to look like at all! Things like these have happened. And there must be many more that I wouldn't even be aware of.

"The 'Main Hoon Na' actress reflected on how she learned to cope with industry politics, "I used to feel really bad earlier. I'd ask why it's happening to me. But now, I can say politics is everywhere, in schools, colleges, and even in your society meetings! So, you just have to program yourself to deal with politics. The world out there is always trying to pull you down."

—ETimes

Dedicated to parents

Rani Mukerji is basking in the joy of a career-defining moment, as she celebrates winning her first National Film Award for Best Actress for 'Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway' (2023). For the seasoned star, this honour is more than just recognition, it carries a deeply personal meaning, tied to her parents and a day filled with powerful memories.

While talking about her grand win, Rani told Hindustan Times, "It was truly surreal to hear about receiving the award, as I was performing a Griha Pravesh puja for my new office, which is located at the place where my dad used to live. I had my father on my mind the whole day. I had just finished the puja, and as soon as I sat down, I received the call about the National Award. I truly felt it was my dad's blessing that it happened in such a way that his presence felt really strong. I was missing him deeply that day, especially because I was doing the puja in the very room where he had passed away."

The actress added, "Of course, winning it for Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway makes it even more special because, as I've mentioned in earlier interviews, the character of Devika was someone I had modelled on my own mother. I had my mom in mind throughout the shoot. So, in a way, the character I played was very much like her. It feels like both my parents have blessed me with this National Award. "

ETimes

Let the good times roll

Hollywood singer-actress Jessica Simpson is currently at ease, as the hard times are over for her, and the actress is thankful.

The actress feels "blessed" to have "gone through the hard stuff" in her life, reports 'Female First UK'.

The 45-year-old star has returned to performing music live, after separating from husband Eric Johnson earlier this year, and Jessica is now looking to the future with optimism. The actress, who has Maxwell, 13, Ace, 12, and Birdie, six, with Eric, told 'People' magazine, "I was just in Pittsburgh to perform for the first time since 2008 for 60-plus minutes. It felt like home. It was such an adrenaline rush. It was beautiful for me. I'm actually blessed to have gone through the hard stuff that I went through. I feel like I'm on the other side. I'm proud to be doing music independently and have my kids rooting for me. It's more free than I've ever been".

Jessica revealed in July she was ready to start dating again. The singer was asked by 'Today' show co-host Jenna Bush-Hager, "Are you interested in dating? Can I set you up with anybody?" Jessica replied, "I'd totally jump on that. Yes I'm single - very into like, I'm ready".

— IANS